Message

From: "Shoren Brown, Trout Unlimited" ["Shoren Brown, Trout Unlimited" <sbrown@tu.org>]

Sent: 6/4/2012 4:17:01 PM

To: Michael Szerlog/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Subject: Bristol Bay in the News June 4, 2012

Attachments: see it online; Hotspot; Hotspot; Hotspot; Hotspot; Www.savebristolbay.org; Click here to read more and

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As Anchorage prepares for a public hearing tonight hosted by the EPA on its watershed assessment, a multitude of stories are circulating about the Seattle hearing held on Thursday, May 31. Throughout the three-hour hearing, a crowd of 350 attended, and more than 80 were able to share public comments with the agency. A KPLU radio story that aired on NPR shared commercial fishermen's deep concerns with the Pebble Mine proposal, and an AP story about the hearing traveled far and wide.

The vast majority of speakers staunchly opposed the Pebble Mine's potential impacts on the Bristol Bay watershed and fisheries. They were a diverse group representing all sorts of points of view - commercial fishermen, sportsmen, Alaska Natives, religious leaders, former engineers with the Army Corps, businesses with ties to Bristol Bay, representatives of the Bristol Bay Native Corporation and plenty of concerned citizens.

Sen. Maria Cantwell hosted a press conference in Seattle on Wednesday, May 30, covered by several news stations and the SeattlePI.com. Cantwell also sent a letter to the EPA asking the agency to carefully weigh Washington jobs and economic benefits derived from Bristol Bay's sockeye and other fisheries. "We want them to protect the fishing industry in the Northwest, and all the ancillary businesses based on catching wild salmon. I want to make sure the EPA takes into consideration in the final assessment the impact on our jobs and our economy," Sen. Cantwell told the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Letter writers in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Montana and Washington made clear their support of the watershed assessment and opposition to development of the Pebble Mine. "I join with hunters and anglers across the U.S. in supporting EPA action to protect Bristol Bay. It is simply too important of a natural resource," wrote Brian Wagner of Nazareth, Penn. In addition, a strong number of opinion pieces in Alaskan publications also called on the EPA to follow up its science with a regulatory act to protect the region's natural resources.

For more information, visit www.savebristolbay.org

Shoren Brown

Bristol Bay Campaign Director

Tim Bristol

Trout Unlimited Alaska Director

First Pebble Mine Hearing takes Place in Seattle

Dan Fiorucci and Mike Ross

KTUU

Officials with the Enviornmental Protection Agency took public comment Thursday in Seattle concerning the potential environmental impacts of a possible mining project on the watershed of Bristol Bay. The main topic of discussion was the Pebble Mine project...Click here to read more and watch the video

EPA hears comments on Bristol Bay mine-proposal study

Seattle Times

The federal Environmental Protection Agency held a hearing Thursday in Seattle to hear comment on a draft study about the possible effects of mine development in the Bristol Bay region of southwest Alaska, where watersheds support the world's largest wild sockeye-salmon runs...Click here to read more

Washington fishermen oppose Pebble mine

ΑP

Anchorage Daily News, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, The Daily Astorian, The Longview Daily News, KING 5, and CBS Local

Washington fishermen who oppose a proposed mine in Alaska had their say at an Environmental Protection Agency hearing Thursday in Seattle...Click here to read more

EPA holding Public Hearing on Bristol Bay Mining Risk Assessment

Ashley Ahearn, KUOW

KUOW, Earthfix, Alaska Public Radio, and NW Public Radio

Fisherman's Terminal is all a-bustle this time of year. Bearded, weathered-looking men are checking nets, sanding down hulls and climbing around on boats. They're getting ready to make the trip to the rich salmon-fishing grounds of Alaska, as they've done for decades...Click here to read more and Click here to listen

Fate of Bristol Bay fishery: It matters here

Joel Connelly

SeattlePI.com

Possible location of a giant mine, flanked by streams that support Bristol Bay's giant salmon fishery, is "of major economic significance to Washington state" as well as Alaska, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., argued Wednesday. The senator appeared at Fisherman's Terminal, flanked by workers from fisheries-dependent businesses, to argue that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency must consider jobs here in evaluating whether to permit the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska...Click here to read more Sen. Cantwell against Alaska's Pebble Mine, threat to salmon

Steve Wilhelm

Puget Sound Business Journal

Seattle-area fishing industry opponents of the proposed Pebble Mine in Alaska flanked Sen. Maria Cantwell at a press event Wednesday, expressing concern that the gold mine could damage Washington state's salmon industry...Click here to read more Seattle hearing on impact of proposed Alaska Mine

AP

Kitsap Sun and Seattle Times

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding one of its hearings on a proposed Alaska mine in Seattle to give fishermen a chance to comment in person. Sen. Maria Cantwell requested Thursday's hearing because she says fishermen would be affected if the Pebble Mine damages the Bristol Bay salmon fishery...Click here to read more

Here's your Chance: Tell the EPA and Obama to Save Bristol Bay

Kirk Deeter

Field & Stream

As you know, we've been keenly in tune with the issue of the proposed Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay, Alaska watershed, home to the world's most prolific wild salmon fishery. Pebble would be an open pit mine of epic proportions that would theoretically store tons of toxic crud behind a 700-foot-high earthen dam, right in the middle of the Bristol Bay headwaters...Click here to read more Preserve fisheries for future generations

Mike Friccero

Seward Phoenix Log and Homer News

While economic woes have plagued many industrial sectors in Alaska, the seafood and commercial fishing industry has remained a bright spot in our economy; providing tens of millions of dollars in state tax revenue and employing thousands of workers each year. Commercial fishing has played a primary role in Alaskan communities for over 100 years, and today it remains the largest private employer in the state...Click here to read more

Chance to weigh in on mining's impacts in Bristol Bay area

Kevin Powell

Anchorage Daily News

The Environmental Protection Agency is holding a series of public meetings to provide information about and seek comment on a draft report assessing the impact of a large mine on the Bristol Bay watershed, including fisheries...Click here to read more EPA to hold first hearing on Bristol Bay Environmental Assessment in Seattle Tomorrow

GW Rastopsoff

Alaska Native News

The first hearings on large scale development of Bristol Bay's watershed after the EPA's release of their environmental assessment released earlier this month is scheduled to be held in Seattle tomorrow. At the request of Washington's Senator Maria Cantwell, the EPA has scheduled Seattle as the venue for the first of its hearings on the watershed assessment...Click here to read more

John W. Gale: Protect Bristol Bay, Alaska from mining

John W. Gale, Co-Chair Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Arvada CO

The Daily Camera

As co-chair of Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, I was pleased to read about the Environmental Protection Agency's draft Watershed Assessment of Bristol Bay, Alaska. Bristol Bay conjures iconic imagery of wild salmon and trout running through the legendary waters that many anglers only dream about visiting...Click here to read more

Pebble Mine plan would endanger fish in Bristol Bay, Alaska

Brian Wagner, Nazareth PA

The Allentown Morning Call

I am primarily focused on the many important conservation issues facing the Keystone State. Some issues, however, unite the conservation community from across the country. One of those issues is protecting Bristol Bay, Alaska, which faces a threat from the proposed Pebble Mine...Click here to read more

Gilnetters fear mine could hurt business

Andre Stepankowsky

The Longview Daily News

Lower Columbia River commercial fishermen have joined with conservationists in opposing a giant mining proposal in Southwest Alaska, saying the operation would damage the world's most productive wild salmon run. The so-called Pebble Mine would be located at the headwaters of the Kvichack and Nushagak rivers, which feed Bristol Bay...Click here to read more

Your View: Yellow Breeches Outfitters supports Alaskan bay

Thom Livingston, Yellow Breechers Outfitters, Boiling PA

The Patriot News

We're fortunate to have great fly-fishing in central Pennsylvania, and Yellow Breeches Outfitters in Boiling Springs (where I'm proud to work) has been proud to supply the anglers who fish in our streams since the 1970s. We're also engaged in issues facing the fly-fishing community nationwide, and no issue has united us more than the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska...Click here to read more

EPA answering mayday to protect fish

Shannyn Moore

Anchorage Daily News

This time of year I tend to get nostalgic about commercial fishing. I miss the nocturnal calm of wheel watch and still feel lucky to be alive when recalling some of the more harrowing moments...Click here to read more

Matt Aboussie: Mining in Bristol Bay, Alaska will harm locals, too

Matt Aboussie Boulder CO

The Daily Camera

I am a Boulder resident and I have been fishing for salmon up in Bristol Bay, Alaska for the last 4 years. Although Boulder is my home, each summer I travel to Bristol Bay with thousands of other fishermen from around the country, earning the bulk of my salary when the salmon flood back to Bristol Bay's rivers...Click here to read more

Protect fish, wildlife and jobs: Bristol Bay can't take large mines

Bud Hodson and Sonny Petersen

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

As many Alaskans know, there are some unbeatable places to work, hunt and fish throughout this state — and in many cases not far from our back porch. As seasoned guides and lodge owners, we've had the opportunity to live, work and play in one of the state's crown jewels — Bristol Bay...Click here to read more

Mine would impact more than Alaska's Bristol Bay

Dan Vermillion, Livingston MT

Bozeman Daily Chronicle

The EPA has just released the Watershed Assessment for Bristol Bay, Alaska, in conjunction with its review of the Pebble Mine. EPA's comprehensive report details Bristol Bay's incredible natural resources and finds that not only are they unequalled the world over, but also are critically important to the human and natural communities that have made their homes in Bristol Bay for

millennia...Click here to read more

Vail Daily letter: Save salmon fishery

Kaleb Walker Gypsum, CO

Vail Daily

I have spent my last four summers fishing for salmon in Bristol Bay, Alaska. I live in Gypsum and own a local business, Kaleb's Katch LLC, selling the delicious sustainably caught wild Alaskan salmon that I catch out of the pristine waters that feed Bristol Bay...Click here to read more

EPA plans public meetings on Bristol Bay mine study

ΑP

Anchorage Daily News, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, and The Republic

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is planning eight meetings in which to share information about, and gather public comment on, its draft watershed assessment for Bristol Bay...Click here to read more

Opinion: EPA asked to fulfill its mission to protect bay

Melanie and Katherine Brown

The Bristol Bay Times

We are a mother and a daughter who have been fishing together outside the mouth of the Naknek River for more than 30 years. Between the two of us we have more than 80 years of combined experience in commercial sockeye-salmon set gillnetting. We have seen big years and lean years, and have seen fish prices rise and fall...Click here to read more

Can Bristol Bay salmon survive big mine? EPA sets hearing

Joel Connelly

SeattlePI.com

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is scheduled to hold a public hearing in Seattle next Thursday on whether the world's greatest salmon fishery — at Alaska's Bristol Bay — can coexist with a gargantuan proposed gold, copper and molybdenum mine...Click here to read more

New interactive map portrays mining boom across Alaska

Alex DeMarban

Alaska Dispatch

Only a handful of operating mines exist in Alaska, but with the price of gold and other metals booming, the state contains 75 mineral prospects, according to a new online map that provides key facts about those prospects stretching from the treeless Aleutian Islands to the frigid Brooks Range to rain-soaked Southeast Alaska...Click here to read more

TU's CEO and Save Bristol Bay director discuss EPA, Pebble Mine

Chris Hunt

TU Blog

Trout Unlimited CEO Chris Wood and the director of TU's Save Bristol Bay campaign, Shoren Brown, spent some time on the phone recently discussing the EPA's recently released watershed assessment for the proposed Pebble Mine...Click here to listen

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